

I CLAIM:

1. A network of medical databases for facilitation the delivery of medical services,
comprising:

5 a) central server for providing electronic data transmission from a hospital computer
system, an insurance computer system and a pharmacy computer system through said central
server using internet and T1 connections;

 b) a database in said hospital computer system which contains patient information and
is accessible by medical personnel through an electronic input device;

10 c) a database in said insurance computer system which contains subscriber coverage
information corresponding to said patient information whereby said medical personnel can
determine insurance coverage electronically by sending patient information to said central
server which automatically extracts said subscriber information from said insurance computer
system database and delivers said information to said electronic input device, and ;

15 d) a database in said pharmacy computer system containing drug information whereby
said medical personnel can determine said drug information by sending said patient information
to said central server which automatically extracts said drug information from said pharmacy
computer system database and delivers said drug information to said electronic input device.

20 2. The network as set forth in Claim 1, wherein;

 a) said patient information includes patient identification information.

3. The network as set forth in Claim 1, wherein;

 a) said patient information includes patient medical record information.

4. The network as set forth in Claim 1, wherein;

a) said drug information includes drug availability information.

5. The network as set forth in Claim 1, wherein;

a) said patient information includes drug history information and said drug information includes drug interaction information, whereby a drug interaction warning is sent to said electronic input device when a drug interaction is detected.

6. The network as set forth in Claim 1, wherein;

a) said electronic input device is an electronic medical clipboard.

7. The network as set forth in Claim 6, wherein;

a) said electronic medical clipboard contains function keys for inputting function commands and further includes an electronic writing pad.

8. A method of facilitating the delivery of medical services comprising the steps of;

a) connecting a network of databases relating to the delivery of medical services including a first database containing patient medical records, a second database containing patient insurance information and a third database containing pharmaceutical information,

b) connecting said network of databases to a central server system by internet and T1 paths;

c) entering database inquiries using an electronic input device connected to said network, whereby said central server system evaluates said inquiry and retrieves relevant information from said databases in response to said query and delivers said information to said electronic input device.

9. The method as set forth in Claim 8, wherein;

a) entering said database inquiries includes requesting insurance coverage information with respect to a specific patient.

10. . The method as set forth in Claim 8, wherein;

5 a) entering said database inquiries includes requesting insurance coverage information with respect to a specific patient.

11. An electronic input device comprising:

a) a housing containing a power source, a viewing screen, a microprocessor for facilitating the transfer and storage of information in response to the actuation of function keys for operating medical input devices attached to said housing and means for transmitting stored information.

12. The electronic input device as set forth in claim 11, further comprising;

a) a medical probe for testing saliva.

13. The electronic input device as set forth in claim 11, further comprising;

a) a medical probe for testing blood.

15 14. The electronic input device as set forth in claim 11, further comprising;

a) a medical probe for testing mucous.

15. The electronic input device as set forth in claim 11, further comprising;

a) a medical probe for performing an ECG.

16. The electronic input device as set forth in claim 11, further comprising;

20 a) an adaptor for receiving input from a stethoscope

17. The electronic input device as set forth in claim 16, further comprising;

a) a recorder for recording said input from said stethoscope.

18. The electronic input device as set forth in claim 16, further comprising;

a) an amplifier for amplifying said input from said stethoscope.

19. The electronic input device as set forth in claim 11, further comprising;

a) an optical thermal lens for diagnosing medical conditions.

5 20. The electronic input device as set forth in claim 11, further comprising;

a) a digital camera for filming a patient's anatomy.